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General Assembly

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18 May 1990

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia)

- Statement by the Chairman
- Reports by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: This year the Disarmament Commission, in the early days of its session, has smoothly disposed of all issues related to the organization of work, except one question regarding item 7. The Commission completed its general exchange of views on various agenda items on time. All subsidiary bodies began work on their respective agenda items from Monday 7 May, and each group has had several meetings so far. In this connection, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all delegations for their spirit of co-operation. Because of that, our proceedings have been conducted in a most effective and businesslike manner, and the available conference resources have been efficiently utilized in accordance with the weekly timetable.

As scheduled, today we shall receive the first round of oral progress reports from the Chairmen of various subsidiary bodies so as to assess the state of affairs on various subjects and to facilitate our programme of work for the next stage of our deliberations.

REPORTS BY CHAIRMEN OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of the Contact Group on item 4, regarding the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, Mr. Sergey Martynov of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Mr. MARTYNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The Contact Group on agenda item 4 has held four meetings so far. It decided to take as the basis of its work the compilation of proposals relating to the recommendations on item 4 contained in the Disarmament Commission's report (A/44/42) to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

(Mr. Martynov, Byelorussian SSR)

The Group also agreed on the organization and method of work, and then undertook a survey of recommendations that had not been agreed upon, as a result of which it identified some where there was thought to be a possibility of progress. A series of consultations concerning those recommendations was organized. The consultations are still going on. They will take some time, because of the complexity of some of the matters under review. As the consultations are concluded, the Contact Group will take a decision on the results.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their readiness to take part in our work at an energetic pace, and I once again ask the delegations taking part in the consultations to ensure that the consultations are effective.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group II on item 6, regarding the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina.

Mr. GARCIA MORITAN (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Working Group that it is my pleasure to chair has met five times in formal session. We have also had open-ended consultations. As a result of our work, we have completed a paragraph-by-paragraph first reading of the text contained in the Disarmament Commission's report to the General Assembly last year (A/44/42). That document has been enhanced with a significant number of additional ideas.

We have now begun final drafting of the document. Accordingly, I am now working on a preliminary text which will be considered on the basis of the open-ended consultations this afternoon. I intend at the next meeting of the Working Group tomorrow to begin a paragraph-by-paragraph consideration of this preliminary document. The document will reflect part of the discussions we held last week and this week.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Nugroho Wisnumurti, as Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group on item 7 regarding naval armaments and disarmament.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): The Consultation Group on item 7 regarding naval armaments and disarmament has had four meetings. The Group agreed to use the working paper of the Chairman of the Consultation Group on item 7 at the 1989 session of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/134) as the basis for discussion. At the first two meetings the Consultation Group held a general discussion on the document. In the course of the discussion, the working paper submitted by Finland, Indonesia and Sweden (A/CN.10/139) was introduced. In addition, concrete proposals were made by the representatives of China, France, New Zealand, the Soviet Union and Sweden.

At the third meeting, the Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group introduced a draft Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1990/Item 7/CRP.1) as his first attempt to reflect the views expressed and the proposals submitted at the plenary meeting and the meetings of the Consultation Group. At the fourth meeting yesterday the Consultation Group had a general discussion on document A/CN.10/1990/Item 7/CRP.1, which will be continued at its fifth meeting this afternoon.

The Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group hopes that by tomorrow he will be in a position to produce a revision of the draft Chairman's working paper to reflect the general trends of the discussion better. At this stage a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion on the revised draft will be held.

As to the nature of the document to be produced as a result of the work of the Consultation Group, it was agreed that the Consultation Group would make serious efforts to produce a consensus text of the Chairman's working paper.

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

I wish to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to the representatives participating in the substantive and open-ended consultations for their views, proposals and contributions. Hard work remains to be done, and the Co-ordinator will continue to rely on the co-operation and goodwill of all delegations concerned so as to enable the consultation to bear fruitful results.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group III on item 8, regarding conventional disarmament, Ambassador Skjold Mellbin of Denmark.

Mr. MELLBIN (Denmark): Working Group III has held seven meetings. At the end of last year's session the Group, on the basis of a Chairman's draft, had registered tentative agreement on the structure of a report and on some of its substantive paragraphs. From this point of departure the Group this year has made some further progress in the course of the meetings it has had so far, and the work continues. It is too early to make a meaningful evaluation of the likely outcome of the Group's endeavours.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group IV on item 9, regarding the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, Ambassador Emeka Ayo Azikiwe of Nigeria.

Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria): I wish first to express my sincere appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Commission for allowing me to preside over the work of Working Group IV on the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

In General Assembly resolution 44/119 H of 15 December 1989, the Commission is requested to finalize the preparation of elements of a draft resolution to be entitled "Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade" and to submit them to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session for consideration and adoption.

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(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

The Working Group has had four meetings. At the first it took a decision on how to proceed, by agreeing to use in principle working paper A/CN.10/135 as a working basis. In my view, commonly shared by members of the Working Group, that document accurately reflects the stage of work on the subject of the Decade at the end of last year's substantive session of the Commission.

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

At its past three meetings the Working Group engaged in a first reading of the paper in order to identify the areas of agreement and some wording that might require modification in view of the changing positive developments in the international situation. The result of that exercise has given me the impression that there seems to be a general wish among delegations to prepare a concise and forward-looking document that could command consensus. It is my intention to submit to the Working Group this afternoon, for its consideration, a working document reflecting the results of the first-reading exercise. I am confident that the general wish expressed by delegations to adopt a consensus text on the decade, in the spirit of co-operation demonstrated so far, will enable us to carry on our successful work.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of the Consultation Group on agenda item 10, regarding objective information on military matters, Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner of Austria.

Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria): The Consultation Group on agenda item 10, objective information on military matters, has so far held four meetings - two on 10 May and two on 14 May.

The first two meetings of the Consultation Group were devoted to a debate in principle on the agenda item; the third, to the significance of objective information as related to security and disarmament; and the fourth, to the clarification of terminology and the definition of the terms used in resolution 44/116 E.

In this context, I wish to draw the attention of the participants in the United Nations Disarmament Commission to the fact that, in accordance with the compromise reached under your able chairmanship, Sir, it is understood that consideration of agenda item 10 will be at a preliminary stage during the 1990

(Mr. Hohenfellner, Austria)

substantive session, and that we shall not engage in any negotiations on a text on the subject. I have the impression, however, that so far we have had a very important and useful debate on the issue. We are continuing that debate. We shall have three more substantive meetings - one today and two tomorrow. That is actually within the time-frame of the compromise proposal worked out under your able chairmanship, Sir.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude to all the participants in the Consultation Group.

The CHAIRMAN: We have heard the oral progress reports on all the agenda items under consideration by the United Nations Disarmament Commission except the item regarding the South African nuclear capability. The Chairman of the Working Group on that item, Ambassador Rana of Nepal, is on his way to this meeting.

While awaiting his arrival, I would say this: As members may recall, at its first plenary meeting, on 7 May, the Commission adopted the text - contained in document A/CN.10/137 - of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission". Among other things in the document, there is a question of universal concern - namely, the working agenda for our next substantive session, in 1991, since the Commission decided to conclude at the current session all substantive agenda items except item 10, regarding objective information on military matters.

A number of delegations have approached me and expressed their preliminary views on this question. Therefore, today I simply wish to draw members' attention to the issue, on which they may wish to start informal consultations directly or through their respective groups. If, as we hope, some results are achieved by next week from the informal consultations on the matter, members may wish to air their opinions, however preliminary, on it, with a view simply to facilitating our handling of the agenda for the next session of the Commission.

(The Chairman)

Although perhaps it is premature at this stage, we could start consultations on what should be included in the agenda of the next session. It might be useful to direct the consultations towards finding some kind of general criteria on the basis of which the agenda for the next session of the Commission could be considered.

I now call on Ambassador Rana of Nepal, Chairman of the Working Group on the South African nuclear capability, to make an oral report.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): Working Group I, on the nuclear capability of South Africa, held three meetings. One was a formal meeting, at which we exchanged views, and there were two informal consultations.

On the basis of the informal consultations, I have been asked by the Group to prepare a document that would reflect the various points of view but that would possibly command consensus. I am at the point of preparing that document. We shall be having a meeting this afternoon for further exchanges of view. Perhaps by next week we shall be in a better position to report to the Commission on our progress.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any representative wish to comment on the reports of the subsidiary groups that have been made today?

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): With respect to the report just presented by Ambassador Wisnumurti of Indonesia, who is acting as a friend of the Chair, my delegation finds it necessary to recall that, as stated by you, Mr. Chairman, at the opening meeting of this session of the Disarmament Commission on 7 May, consultations on agenda item 7 are held under your own responsibility. Consequently, those consultations are not taking place in a subsidiary body established by this Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: I take note of the remarks of the representative of the United States. Ambassador Wisnumurti was conducting consultations on behalf of the Chairman.

It is my intention to hold a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Monday, 21 May, immediately after our plenary meeting in the morning. As I stated earlier, at that meeting we may hear some preliminary views on the results of the informal consultations regarding how we should proceed on the question of agenda items for 1991. As I stated, perhaps it would be useful in the consultations to start consideration of the criteria on the basis of which the agenda items for the next session could be considered. I hope that at that meeting on 21 May we shall be able to hear some views on how we should address that question. There will be ample time for us to consider this question, but I hope that an exchange of views will take place at the next plenary meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

As there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 21 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia)

- Statement by the Chairman
- Reports by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: Last Tuesday, 15 May, the Commission heard the first round of progress reports from the Chairmen of its subsidiary bodies. Since then all subsidiary bodies have continued intensive work on their respective agenda items; in particular, they have started consideration of various texts for concrete recommendations. During the past week I have seen that all delegations have made the utmost effort to achieve agreement on the recommendations by consensus. I sincerely appreciate those efforts by all delegations, and especially those of the Chairmen of the various Groups.

REPORTS BY CHAIRMEN OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The CHAIRMAN: As scheduled, today we shall receive the second round of oral progress reports from the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies so as to assess the current state of affairs on the items concerned and to facilitate our programme of work for the last stage of our deliberations.

I call on the Chairman of the Contact Group on agenda item 4, regarding the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, Mr. Sergey Martynov of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Mr. MARTYNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): During the past week the Contact Group on agenda item 4 has continued its work on the text of a compilation of proposals and recommendations. As a result of the work done, the text has already taken on a more succinct form. We have also been able to make its structure more logical.

At the same time, I must point out that a number of recommendations are still in brackets. Consultations are still going on about a number of important

(Mr. Martynov, Byelorussian SSR)

recommendations, and those consultations give us some reason for hope. We expect the consultations to be completed today and tomorrow, and the Group will then be able to take up the report on its completed work and finish its work, according to schedule, by the end of this week.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group I on item 5, regarding the nuclear capability of South Africa, Ambassador Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): Since my report last Tuesday on the progress of the work of Working Group I on the nuclear capability of South Africa, I have been continuing, as desired by the Group, informal consultations with various members of the Group. I am happy to report that we have made substantial progress, and the members have asked me to prepare a Chairman's informal working paper, which I have almost completed. After preliminary consultations with members, I may submit it for consideration of the Group as a whole for further improvement of the text. We hope to be able to adopt it by consensus this week.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Brazil, Ambassador Serqio de Queiroz Duarte, who will speak on behalf of the Chairman of Working Group II on item 6, regarding the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

Mr. DUARTE (Brazil): Ambassador Garcia Moritan of Argentina has been called home for a few days, so until his return I shall be taking care of the chairmanship of the Group to try to conclude our work.

We have continued our meetings, and Ambassador Garcia Moritan has prepared a paper, which was shown to the Working Group last Friday, when several suggestions

(Mr. Duarte, Brazil)

regarding it were made from the floor. The Working Group has a meeting scheduled for this afternoon in this room at 3 p.m., and I intend to start considering those suggestions at that time. A paper containing the suggestions will be distributed this afternoon, and I hope that we shall look at it in the meeting. I then intend, if the Group agrees, to adjourn to open-ended consultations in one of the small rooms to see whether we can go over the paper and try to achieve a final version of the so-called machinery part of the document.

That is my intention as regards the continuation of our work with a view to trying to reach a final paper by the end of this week.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Indonesia, as Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group on item 7, regarding naval armaments and disarmament, Ambassador Nugroho Wisnumurti, who will report on behalf of the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): Since our Commission last met, on 15 May 1990, the Consultation Group on item 7 - Naval armaments and disarmament - has had four meetings, including one extended meeting. In addition, the Co-ordinator of the Group has had several private consultations with some interested delegations.

In an effort to improve the working paper prepared by the Chairman of the 1989 session of the Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/134), which is the basis for consideration of item 7 at this session, the Consultation Group discussed on Monday and Tuesday last week, 14 and 15 May, the draft Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1990/Item 7/CRP.1).

As a result of the discussion, the Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group produced, at the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 May 1990, a revised text - CRP.1/Rev.1 - as his attempt to reflect better the general trends of the discussion. The Consultation Group then immediately embarked on a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion of that revised text. That exercise was completed on Friday last week. It is heartening to report that important progress was made and that this was made possible by the positive and constructive participation of interested delegations.

At the meeting of the Consultation Group this afternoon the Co-ordinator will introduce the second revision of the text and will suggest the immediate discussion of the new paper paragraph by paragraph. It is hoped that, with the same spirit of co-operation as has been shown by the participating delegations so far, the Consultation Group will be able to complete its work as scheduled.

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to the delegations participating in the work of the Consultation Group for their co-operation.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group III, on item 8, regarding conventional disarmament, Ambassador Skjold Mellbin of Denmark.

Mr. MELLBIN (Denmark): Working Group III has held three meetings and a number of private consultations since my report to this Commission last Tuesday, 15 May.

The Group is continuing its efforts with a view to establishing agreement on a substantial report on the basis of the Chairman's draft. Some further progress has been made and consensus or decisive progress has been achieved on paragraphs dealing with the implications of accumulation and sophistication of conventional arms and the need and responsibility for agreements and other measures in the field of conventional disarmament; the subjects and objectives of conventional disarmament; the European aspect; factors governing negotiations on conventional disarmament; the value of unilateral measures; the importance of regional efforts; and the implications of arms transfers and illicit traffic in arms.

In the course of the next few days the Group will intensify its efforts aimed at establishing agreement on a complete report.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Chairman of Working Group IV, on item 9, regarding the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, Ambassador Emeka Ayo Azikiwe of Nigeria.

Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria): Working Group IV, on agenda item 9, regarding the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, has had three meetings since I last reported to the Commission at its plenary meeting on 15 May. As announced on that occasion, I submitted working paper A/CN.10/1990/WG.IV/CRP.1 to the Working Group in its afternoon meeting on the same day. In the preparation of that paper, consideration was given to the views and proposals expressed during the

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

first reading of working document A/CN.10/135, prepared by Canada last year, on the basis of which the Working Group has agreed to continue its work in order to fulfil the mandate given to it. The general wish of the Working Group to produce a concise and forward-looking document on the Third Disarmament Decade was also reflected in its working paper CRP.1. As a result, that paper could successfully reduce the length of document A/CN.10/135 without altering its structure and content.

Having heard comments on document A/CN.10/1990/WG.IV/CRP.1, along with suggestions made during my informal consultations with several delegations, on 17 May I introduced conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/WG.IV/CRP.2 for further consideration by the Group. This working paper was another attempt by the Chairman to bridge the gap on certain issues and to explore common ground which might command a consensus. In the working paper I have aimed at removing repetitive sentences and at streamlining the sequence of thought without an unnecessary increase in length. In my own judgement, this working paper was well received and over 90 per cent of its content would be acceptable to all delegations. Since 17 May the Working Group has been considering CRP.2. At the same time I have held intensive consultations with interested delegations to smooth out the remaining differences.

I intend to continue those informal consultations immediately after this plenary meeting and to produce a new working document this afternoon, as yet another attempt to arrive at a consensus document. Although the Chairman's paper to be circulated this afternoon may not satisfy the positions of every delegation, I appeal to them to consider it in its totality before deciding whether they can accept it.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to delegations for their support and co-operation extended to me, and I trust that their sincere wish to

(Mr. Azikiwe, Nigeria)

have an agreed declaration which will chart our future efforts in the field of disarmament will enable us to resolve the remaining differences.

The CHAIRMAN: Lastly, I should like to call upon the Chairman of the Consultation Group on item 10, regarding objective information on military matters, Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner of Austria.

Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria): The Consultation Group on agenda item 10, "Objective information on military matters", held a total of seven meetings between 10 and 16 May. Since the last progress report, on 15 May, the Consultation Group's debate has focused on the global and regional dimension of objective information and on the related question whether the United Nations can or should play a role in that context.

The Consultation Group then discussed the advisability of the future elaboration of a set of principles or guidelines on objective information on military matters, and the parameters which should govern a possible régime on the exchange of objective information.

The afternoon meeting on 16 May was devoted to a concluding debate in the course of which delegations summarized their views on all aspects of the agenda item. Many delegations seized that opportunity to elaborate comprehensively on their positions on objective information on military matters.

I want to thank, very sincerely and cordially, all delegations that participated in our deliberations.

Let me recall in that context that according to the compromise worked out under your able chairmanship, Sir, it was understood that consideration of item 10 would be in a preliminary stage during the present session of the Disarmament Commission and that the Consultation Group would not engage in any negotiations on a text on the subject.

The report of the Consultation Group will be adopted in a short procedural meeting on 24 May.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies for their progress reports and their co-operation in conducting the work of the Commission.

Are there any comments?

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): The United States delegation deeply regrets that in the course of today's proceedings the status of the consultations on agenda item 7, which you, Sir, have undertaken on your own responsibility, has again been represented as that of a subsidiary body of the Commission. I do not want to repeat the statement I made on this point in order to set the record straight at our plenary meeting last Tuesday. I have no choice, however, but to recall it at this time so there may be no further confusion in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN: I take note of the statement of the representative of the United States. I think I made the situation clear by asking the co-ordinator of the Consultation Group on item 7 to report on behalf of the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission.

As members may recall, at our last plenary meeting, held on 15 May, the Commission decided to hold an informal meeting of the Committee of the Whole in order to have a preliminary discussion on the question of the working agenda for our next substantive session, in 1991. Today, therefore, I wish to draw attention to that issue. Let me again emphasize that in my view it might be premature at this stage to consider any specific subject to be included in the Commission's agenda for next year. However, the Chair feels it could be the right time for the Commission to have a general discussion on the subject, on such aspects as the rationale or general criteria for selecting subject-matter to be included in its working agenda for next year. In any case, I wish to stress that our discussion at this stage should be limited to a general exchange of views on the issue, and should not broach the question of the selection of any specific subject for inclusion.

(The Chairman)

I wish to remind representatives that in accordance with the adopted ways and means for enhancing the functioning of the Disarmament Commission we have to make a final decision on this issue at the Commission's organizational session early in December. Of course, extensive consultations could be held during the next few months and also during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

Following the adjournment of this meeting, a meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be convened.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 29 May 1990, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia)

- Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with our programme of work, we are approaching the final stage of our work at the current session, the consideration and adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies, including consultation groups, on the various agenda items, as well as the report of the Chairman on agenda item 7. These are contained in conference room papers A/CN.10/1990/CRP.2 to 10.

In accordance with the agreed programme of work, we should begin our concluding statements immediately after we adopt the report of the Commission as a whole.

We shall now begin our consideration and adoption of reports on individual agenda items. In doing so, I shall call on the Chairman of each Group to introduce the Group's report. I shall consider first the report of the Committee of the Whole on agenda item 4 as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3.

The Committee of the Whole established a contact group to consider the subject. After 10 meetings, the Group produced a document containing recommendations, which are annexed to its report. At its third meeting, held on 24 May, the Committee of the Whole adopted the report on agenda item 4 and concluded its consideration of the item. As agreed a while ago at this afternoon in the Committee of the Whole, the title of the report will be amended.

Are there any comments on the document under consideration?

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): I apologize if I missed something in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.2 - probably I did - but I was just interested in the statement in paragraph 5 of conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3 to the effect that:

> "The Contact Group is of the view that the appropriate course of action in respect of the subject of the current item 4 of the agenda should be considered by the Disarmament Commission." (A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3, para. 5)

I do not find any reference in A/CN.10/1990/CRP.2 to such consideration and possible decision. I may have missed it, and if I did, I stand corrected, of course.

The CHAIRMAN: We have not considered document A/CN.10/1990/CRP.2 as yet.

If there are no other comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole on agenda item 4 (a) and (b), as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3, with its amended title, as was agreed.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): I am sorry, Sir. I do not mean to delay our proceedings but I see in the reports of other groups that there is a statement to the effect that consideration of the item was concluded, but in this report contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3 it says that the Contact Group concluded the consideration of the item, but then reference is made to some further consideration by the Disarmament Commission. Are we going to have that in each case, or just in the case of this item?

The CHAIRMAN: As I see it, it is only on this item. I hope the point has been clarified for the representative of the United States.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): My question, which I have not posed yet, is: Why?

The CHAIRMAN: This precise formulation was first adopted by the Contact Group, and then later adopted by the Committee of the Whole in toto.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): I realize all that, of course, and I was involved in the adoption, but my understanding at the time was that the officers of the Commission would consider perhaps eventually - not necessarily at this stage - a general formula with respect to any and all items that would be included on our agenda for this year. I am raising this question - and as I said before, I do not want to delay the proceedings - because it seems to me that we ought to consider the possibility of having a general formula that would be applicable to all items equally, since under the programme all items are to be reported out this year and their consideration included without any further action, as it were, as is called for in this paragraph, by the Disarmament Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Members have heard the intervention of the representative of the United States. As I said, this formula was discussed and agreed on by the Contact Group and it was also adopted by the Committee of the Whole. Of course, I am in the hands of members as to whether the Commission will agree to the deletion of this part of the paragraph.

Mr. DUARTE (Brazil): Frankly, I do not see why we should delete what was agreed on by the Committee of the Whole and by the Contact Group before it, and I think it is entirely proper that the Disarmament Commission consider the question, as was suggested to it by both the Committee of the Whole and the Contact Group. What, of course, the suggestion did not state is at what time the Commission would deem it appropriate to consider the item. It may consider it at any time that it thinks it is appropriate to do so.

Mr. GARCIA MORITAN (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I should just like to say that I certainly agree with the comments of the representative of Brazil. If the Committee of the Whole adopted this provision, I see no reason why we should alter it now.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): Maybe there is some misunderstanding. When this formulation was considered in the Contact Group, my impression, or at least my understanding, was that the question what to do with this item would be considered at this session of the Disarmament Commission, not at some time in the future. That is why I raised the question of the lack of any reference to the consideration of this issue in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.2, which, as the Chairman has rightly pointed out, has not yet been considered here, but I am not going to press the point.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United States for his understanding.

I shall take it that the Commission now wishes to adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole on agenda item 4 (a) and (b), as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.3, with its title amended, as was agreed.

The report of the Committee of the Whole, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like now to take up the report of Working Group I on agenda item 5, regarding the question of South Africa's nuclear capability, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.4.

I call on the Chairman of the Group, Ambassador Jai Pratap Rana, the representative of Nepal, to introduce the report of the Group.

Mr. RANA (Nepal), Chairman of Working Group I: I have the honour, on behalf of Working Group I, to introduce the report of the Group on its consideration of agenda item 5, concerning the nuclear capability of South Africa. The report is contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.4.

(Mr. Rana, Chairman,
Working Group I)

The proliferation of nuclear weapons, both vertical and horizontal, has been a matter of great concern to the international community. In the specific case of South Africa, the matter assumes particular significance and relevance, in view of the solemn Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). This Declaration has been endorsed by the General Assembly.

(Mr. Rana, Chairman,
Working Group I)

In resolution 418 (1977), the Security Council expressed its grave concern that South Africa was, at that time, at the threshold of producing nuclear weapons and it called on all States to refrain from any co-operation with South Africa in that regard. The question has now been under consideration by the Disarmament Commission for a decade. As South Africa persists in its universally condemned policy of apartheid, it is clear that its activities in the nuclear field will only serve to heighten security concerns in the volatile region of southern Africa.

I am happy to report that Working Group I has reached a consensus on this important item. The conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, though a result of protracted negotiations and compromises, contain and convey a clear message to South Africa that the international community is deeply concerned about its nuclear capability and that all efforts should be made to prevent South Africa from moving further on that dangerous course. I commend the report for adoption by the plenary meeting by consensus.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all delegations for the good will and the constructive spirit of co-operation they displayed throughout the process of informal and formal consultations on this important subject. I wish, in particular, to express my thanks to the representatives of Belgium and Ghana, Mr. Raoul Delcorde and Mr. Nelson Dumeri, respectively, who worked tirelessly to help me co-ordinate the intensive informal consultations that we carried out, thereby greatly facilitating the achievement of consensus. I believe I speak for the Group as a whole in expressing our great appreciation to the Secretary of the Working Group, Mr. Sammy Kum Buo, for the very able manner in which he assisted the Working Group. Our appreciation also goes to the other Secretariat staff, including the interpreters, conference officers,

(Mr. Rana, Chairman,
Working Group I)

technicians and others, who, with their usual efficiency and competence to which we have become accustomed, serviced our meetings.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my deep gratitude to you for your kind understanding, advice and guidance throughout this period of work. It has been an honour and pleasure for me to work under your able leadership.

Ms. AL-ALAWI (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): With respect to the report of Working Group I on South Africa's nuclear capability, in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.4, we should like, on behalf of the Arab Group, which we have the honour to chair this month, to express our appreciation for the intensive informal and formal consultations that have taken place in order to reach the desired conclusions. We should like to request that consideration be given to the establishment of contacts with the delegations concerned with this question, to ascertain their positions and any proposals they might have. In this connection, I should like to mention that many Arab delegations have repeatedly sought to express their concern at the nuclear capability of South Africa and have submitted concrete proposals, including proposals concerning the declared military collaboration between Israel and South Africa, a collaboration recognized by both countries, in violation of resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Arab countries also called attention to the General Assembly resolutions in this regard, the most recent of which was resolution 44/113 B. However, those proposals were not taken into account. At another stage in the consultations, a different paper was suggested to us, which did not mention that resolution or that collaboration. We would have expected inclusion of such a reference, in view of the danger to which the African continent, the Mediterranean region and the Middle East region are exposed.

(Ms. Al-Alawi, Bahrain)

However, in response to the appeals made by our colleagues from the African States and in view of the agreement achieved in that regard, the Arab Group decided not to stand in the way of a consensus on this question. At the same time, we should like to stress the importance of expanding the informal consultations in the future and of holding formal meetings of working groups at different stages of the consultations so that all delegations may be able to contribute to the process of such consultations at all stages.

Mr. MFULA (Zambia): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the Chairman of our Working Group, the Ambassador of Nepal, who worked tirelessly to ensure that a consensus would emerge with regard to agenda item 5. I should like to place on record my delegation's view that the African Group also would have wished to have a strong document on this item. We took into account the views expressed by other regional groups and, in the interest of consensus, we decided to go along with the views of those who participated in the work of the Working Group. In deciding to do so, we took into account the fact that the main elements of what we wanted to see featured in the document were, indeed, included. First and foremost was the element that we should bring to the attention of the international community the fact of South Africa's nuclear capability and appeal to all those that have been collaborating to cease such collaboration with the racist régime. All that has been done in line with the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Organization of African Unity.

My intervention at this point is merely to express our gratitude to the Chairman of the Working Group and to all those who went along with the wishes of the majority in the Working Group so that a consensus could be achieved at this session. My delegation hopes that nothing said at this session will in any way impede the effective implementation of the recommendations made at the session.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group I on agenda item 5, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.4?

The report of Working Group I was adopted.

Mr. KENYON (United Kingdom): My delegation is delighted that we have this year been able to reach consensus on a set of conclusions and recommendations on the subject of South Africa's nuclear capability. After so many years of debate on this subject, we have at last been able to make progress, thanks to the skill and patience of the Chairman of the Working Group, Ambassador Rana, and the spirit of compromise shown by all delegations.

Following the adoption by consensus of the report of Working Group I on item 5, I wish to make the following observations. First, my delegation does not accept that South Africa has an existing nuclear capability in the sense of possession of nuclear weapons. Secondly, we have noted the closure on 1 February this year of the pilot uranium enrichment plant at Pelindaba. Finally, we note that South Africa has expressed an interest in acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. BAUME (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation welcomes the adoption of the report of Working Group I on South Africa's nuclear capability. I wish to thank the Chairman of the Group, Ambassador Rana of Nepal, for his tireless efforts in the search for a balanced compromise text. The French delegation joined in the consensus on the report, but we should like, nevertheless, to emphasize the fact that it is our view that this text should be considered as a whole and that each of its elements should be understood in the light of the other components. Furthermore, if France fully subscribes to the objective clearly affirmed in the text, that is, to contribute to the prevention of any employment by South Africa of its nuclear capability for armament purposes, we cannot accept, in

(Mr. Baume, France)

the absence of further proof, the existence of a proven ability on the part of South Africa to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): My delegation also has some comments and observations to make in connection with the report of Working Group I on agenda item 5. However, my delegation will offer those comments and observations later in our proceedings when my delegation presents its concluding statement.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider the report of Working Group II on agenda item 6, regarding the review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.5. I call on the Chairman of Working Group II, Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina, to introduce the report of the Group.

Mr. MORITAN (Argentina), Chairman of Working Group II (interpretation from Spanish): It is my pleasure to present the report of Working Group II on agenda item 6, entitled "Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament", contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.5.

The report of the Working Group is the result of intense debate in the Commission this year and in previous years. It would not be fair to divorce the results achieved this year from the efforts made in the past by the Ambassador of Cameroon. The results shown in the report also reflect the willingness shown by delegations to work towards a common goal without abandoning their positions of principle.

In carrying out its task the Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph 3 of the report. The Working Group held 15 meetings. At its 9th meeting, on 18 May, I requested Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte of Brazil to replace me, as a Friend of the Chairman, in the conduct of the negotiations in the Working Group. I should point out that under his skilful leadership the Working

(Mr. Moritan, Chairman,
Working Group II)

Group managed to adopt by consensus the document now before the Commission. I should like, on behalf of the Working Group and, in particular, on my own behalf, to express our admiration and gratitude to Ambassador Sergio de Queiroz Duarte for the work that he performed. I should also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary of the Working Group, Miss Agnes Marcaillou and to her assistant, Brigette Alleaume, without whose co-operation it would have been difficult to achieve such successful results. In accordance with the decision adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 143rd plenary meeting, the Working Group decided, at its 15th meeting on 25 May, to conclude its consideration of the item and it adopted by consensus the text contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.5. I am pleased to announce that the Group adopted the report by consensus.

I should like in conclusion to express my thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for the way in which we were able to work and for the leadership that you have demonstrated in the Disarmament Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group II on item 6, regarding the review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.5?

The report of Working Group II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to take up now the report of the Chairman on item 7, regarding naval armaments and disarmament as contained in conference room paper A/CN.10//1990/CRP.6. As the members of the Commission will recall, the Commission decided that, as last year, the Chairman of the Commission would report on the item in consultation with the Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group on the item and interested delegations. Pursuant to the decision of the Commission, I produced the report I have just mentioned.

The substantive account of the work of the Consultation Group is given in conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.10. In this connection I should like to inform the Commission that in paragraph 4 of paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.6 the indication in brackets should be replaced by the words, ", as annexed,".

I invite Ambassador Wisnumurti, Co-ordinator of the Group, to introduce, on behalf of the Chairman of the Commission, the report on the outcome of the Group's deliberations on the subject.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia), Co-ordinator of the Consultation Group: At its 143rd meeting, on 7 May 1990, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission decided to follow last year's course of action and to hold, under his responsibility, substantive and open-ended consultations on item 7, regarding naval armaments and disarmament. In accordance with that decision you, Sir, delegated the actual conduct of the substantive and open-ended consultations to me, as a Friend of the Chairman.

The Disarmament Commission also decided, at the 143rd meeting, to conclude the substantive and open-ended consultations on item 7 during the current session of the Commission. Accordingly, I have conducted substantive and open-ended consultations on item 7, regarding naval armaments and disarmament, in a

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Co-ordinator, Consultation Group)

consultation group, which held 13 meetings between 9 and 25 May. Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung from the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Consultation Group. In the course of the work of the Consultation Group I also conducted informal consultations with interested delegations on special aspects of the subject, in order to facilitate our work.

In addition to last year's documentation the Consultation Group had before it a working paper submitted by Finland, Indonesia and Sweden (A/CN.10/139). The Consultation Group agreed to use the Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/134) as a basis for discussion. In order to facilitate the discussion I introduced the draft Chairman's paper (A/CN.10/1990/item 7/CRP.1).

The substantive and open-ended consultations have resulted in a number of substantive findings on new aspects of the subject and recommendations formulated in consensus language that met the concerns of all delegations participating in the consultations. They are contained in the Chairman's paper which is now before the Commission, A/CN.10/1990/CRP.10.

At this juncture I wish to draw the attention of the Commission to page 2 of the paper, where several corrections should be made.

First, a new subparagraph (p) should be inserted after subparagraph (o), to read:

"(p) Chairman's paper on agenda item 8 (A/CN.10/134)".

Secondly, in the first sentence of paragraph 3 the words "Chairman of the" should be inserted before the words "Disarmament Commission".

In the second line, the words ", under his responsibility," should be inserted between the words "hold" and "substantive".

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Co-ordinator, Consultation Group)

There is another minor error to be corrected in paragraph 18. In the second to last sentence of that paragraph the word "of" should be inserted before the words "a naval element".

As agreed by the Consultation Group, elements and principles already accepted at previous sessions of the Commission were retained and consolidated. In addition, the Group agreed to incorporate new elements and principles, which now appear in paragraphs 6 to 13, in paragraphs 15 to 23, and in paragraphs 25 and 26. It is not my intention to elaborate on the new elements and principles I have just referred to. Suffice it to say that conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.10, which is before the Commission, reflects important substantive progress in our effort to find a wider common ground on naval armaments and disarmament and furthers mutual understanding of the general trends of the current thinking, objectives and measures on the subject. This significant achievement was made possible by good will and a high degree of co-operation shown by all delegations participating in the consultations. It is my sincere hope that the valuable collective work that has gone into the report in A/CN.10/1990/CRP.10 will not be lost and that it will contribute to the work of the Disarmament Commission towards the achievement of its goals and objectives.

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for your thoughtful guidance and to all delegations participating in the substantive and open-ended consultations for their positive contributions and co-operation. On behalf of the Consultation Group I should like to thank the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary of the Group, Mr. Lin Kuo-Chung and Ms. Florence Lee respectively, and their staff, for their valuable assistance to the Group and to me.

The CHAIRMAN: As was agreed in the Committee of the Whole, there is also an omission in paragraph 3 of conference room paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.6. In addition to the change introduced by Mr. Wisnumurti in paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.10, the words ", under his responsibility," should be inserted between the words "hold" and "substantive" in paragraph 3 of A/CN.10/1990/CRP.6.

Mr. AKALOVSKY (United States of America): I have several comments to make in connection with this item.

First, your consultations, as is rightly stated in the report, Mr. Chairman, are now in three places, I believe. Those consultations were initiated by you on your own responsibility, so the Disarmament Commission as such did not take any such decision; it was your own decision.

Secondly, in the light of that situation, the report on item 7 cannot be adopted by the Commission as such. It can be endorsed or concurred in by those who have participated in these negotiations. Certainly my delegation did not participate in such consultations and is not in a position to approve or adopt, or endorse, the working paper containing substantive parts of the results of those consultations.

Finally, the proposed change in paragraph 4 of A/CN.10/1990/CRP.6 is not in keeping with the procedure followed last year and in previous years and in fact in paragraph 3 it is stated that the Chairman of the Commission decided to follow last year's course of action. Well, the course of action last year, unlike this year's, involved the reports and the proceedings on these consultations being contained in a separate document, a working paper, referred to by a number in the report of the Commission.

In the course of our informal consultations since last December my delegation has repeatedly inquired whether the intention was to proceed in the same way as had been done in previous years so far as the handling of this item was concerned. We received assurances that this would be the case. Unfortunately, the proposed change deviates from past procedure and my delegation is not in a position to endorse that change.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe all members of the Commission will recall the process we have gone through in arriving at a consensus on how we should treat the

(The Chairman)

outcome of the consultations conducted by the Chairman on item 7. Suffice it for me to say at this stage that we had gone from one extreme to the other but, thanks to the spirit of co-operation and understanding displayed by all delegations from the very beginning when I conducted these consultations, we arrived at a situation where at the beginning of the substantive session we could agree to two texts on the arrangement, on the basis of which the consultations proceeded. We have now heard the outcome of those consultations.

The remaining text, the last of the three texts on item 7, concerned only the placement of the outcome of the deliberations of the consultations in the report. In the Chairman's effort to come to an amicable solution acceptable to all delegations, the Chairman proposed that the outcome of the consultations should be placed in an annex. The Commission is, I think, fully aware that this is the last year in which the Commission would consider this item so there was a concerting of views among delegations participating in the consultations as well as in the consultations with interested delegations, that there was a need to have a record of the consultations on item 7, so it was merely for those purposes that the outcome of the deliberations was placed as an annex to the report of the Commission.

Mr. NOREEN (Sweden): My delegation fully supports the proposed change that you, Sir, have introduced into paper A/CN.10/1990/CRP.6, paragraph 4.

Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation thanks the Chairman and the Friend of the Chairman. The efforts made by them in this connection and the consultations conducted by them have been very useful. Those consultations have resulted in positive progress and results. Certainly important progress should not be lost. We believe that it should be reflected in the report of the Commission in an appropriate form. That is also in agreement with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The proposal made by you, Mr. Chairman, is totally in accordance

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

with the actuality of the consultations conducted. The Chinese delegation fully supports the proposal made by the Chairman to include the results of the consultations in the report.

Mr. MORITAN (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The work carried out by you, Mr. Chairman, and by the Friend of the Chairman, Ambassador Wisnumurti, has been particularly apt and we think that the results of those efforts need to be properly reflected in the Commission's report. For that reason we would like to support the suggestion made by you for an amendment to paragraph 4.

Mr. KRASULIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, the Soviet delegation fully and whole-heartedly supports the proposal you have just made. We assume that the document prepared by the Working Group on naval armament and disarmament reflects the positions of 158 out of 159 Member States, and we therefore consider that its contents should not be lost in an anonymous document but should be duly reflected in the report of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: I propose that we now adjourn this meeting and reconvene, as planned, at 7 p.m.

Mr. MELLBIN (Denmark): I propose that, rather than adjourning this meeting and reconvening in one hour's time, we continue the present meeting until what I hope will be the not-so-bitter end.

Mr. BAUME (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation supports the proposal of the representative of Denmark. If we take a one-hour break, I fear we shall meet until very late.

Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria): My delegation agrees with the representatives of Denmark and France that we should continue with our work uninterrupted.

Mr. MORRIS (Australia): My delegation would like to join the circus; we too add our voice in calling for a change in what is clearly a very inefficient arrangement. There may be practical difficulties with the interpretation, but clearly it would be more efficient for the Commission to work until it concludes its business rather than having a one-hour break.

The CHAIRMAN: I fully sympathize with the remarks just made by members. The problem is that a new team of interpreters will be starting at 7 o'clock, and we cannot extend the time allocated for this afternoon's meeting beyond 6 o'clock.

Accordingly, the Commission will meet again at 7 p.m. sharp.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.